

Strategies to Increase Family Engagement



"Programs don't change people - Relationships do." Bill Milliken



"For these are all our children, and we shall all profit by, or pay for, what they become." James Baldwin



How to Get Results



Know Your Community

What do your parents enjoy?

What do they value?

What will make them want to come?

Design your program to meet your schools needs

Do your families need instruction?

Do your families need materials?

Do your families support?

Do your families need resources?

How We Reach the Students



- If you reach the students, you can usually reach the parents
- What incentives can you bring to the table to encourage students to want to bring their parents?
- Are you looking at their values system and not yours?

A Safe Place to Learn and Grow

- ♥ Programs that support substance-free lifestyles
- ♥ Who can partner with you? YMCA, American Family, Local Mental Health providers, Colleges and Universities
- ♥ Programs that support community values.
- ♥ Mentoring programs that support and reflect values

A Marketable Skill to Use Upon Graduation

- ♥ Awards recognizing attendance, citizenship, and grades
- ♥ Life Skills
- ♥ Career counseling
- ♥ Computer and technology
- ♥ GED programs
- ♥ Work Force Programs

A Chance to Give Back to Peers and the Community

♥ Community Service Opportunities



Community Building

- Community Garden
- Community Fitness
- Community Game Night
- Community Art Show
- Community Healthy Cooking Night/Series
- Community Parenting or Café Nights

Sometimes we expect too much

If you start a community project, be well prepared and don't expect that everyone comes with base knowledge. Sometimes programs fail with adults because we fail to explain and to prepare them for success.

Parents and volunteers

- Are not paid professionals
- Do not know what you expect
- Are here because they care
- Are to give support and an extra hand

"The issue of caring cuts across class, race, income and geographic groups. We believe we can fix this." Bill Milliken

